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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/590,645 | 08/25/2006 | Yvonne Susanna Veldhuizen | F776-4(V) | 1494 |
| 201 7590 03/11/2010 UNILEVER PATENT GROUP 800 SYLVAN AVENUE AG West S. Wing ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS, NJ 07632-3100 | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | |
| TRAN LIEN, THUY | | | | |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 1794 | | | | |
| NOTIFICATION DATE | | DELIVERY MODE | | |
| 03/11/2010 | | ELECTRONIC | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentgroupus@unilever.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/590,645

Applicant(s)

VELDHUIZEN ET AL.

Examiner

Lien T. Tran

Art Unit

1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI/226)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/28/07
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

This application does not contain an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 CFR 1.72(b). An abstract on a separate sheet is required.

Claims 1-4, 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 is vague and indefinite. It is not clear if applicant intends to have a Markush group; the language of a Markush group is not open. The proper language is "selected from the group consisting of", not "comprising" as recited in the claim. It is not clear what other emulsifier is included in the group from the use of "comprising".

Claims 2-3 and 10 have the same problem as claim 1.

Claim 5 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claim has not been further treated on the merits.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 and 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yuan et al (6190,720).

Yuan et al disclose a composition comprising sterol or stanol esterified with fatty acids and emulsifiers. The sterol or stanol derivatives can be esters of sunflower oil, cotton seed oil, palm oil etc... The emulsifier can be one emulsifier or mixture of emulsifiers selected from the group of lecithin, monoglyceride, polysorbate, sodium stearoyl lactylate, DATEM, glyceryl monostearate. The amount of emulsifier is present in the composition in amount of about 1% to about 5%. The amount of sterol or stanol ester is from about 30-90%. The amount of the composition is used in food products ranges from about 5-20%. The foods include baked products such as bread, cakes, brownies etc... (see col. 1 line 63 through col. 2 line 25, col. 3 lines 43-62, col. 4, col. 6 lines 22-42)

The amount of emulsifier can be about 1% and the amount of sterol ester can be up to about 90%; thus the ratio of emulsifier to sterol can be from 1:30 to 1:90 when 1% emulsifier is used. The ratio can range from 1:6 to 1:18 when the upper range of emulsifier is used. Both of these ranges include ratios falling within the claimed range. In the food products, the amount of emulsifier can be 1% when 5% of emulsifier is used in the composition and the composition is used in amount of 20%. The amount of sterol can vary and includes amount recited in claim 10. For example, if 40% sterol ester is used in the composition and 20% of the composition is used in the food, the amount of sterol ester is 8%. The feature of "anti-staling" is in the preamble and does not limit the claims. Furthermore, Yuan et al disclose the same composition; thus, it inherently has the same property. The use of the composition in bread inherently includes a dough because a dough is formed to form bread.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lien T. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-1408. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Keith Hendricks can be reached on 571-272-1401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

March 3, 2010

/Lien T Tran/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794